

A NEW ECUADOREAN MITE

(ACARINA, TETRANYCHIDAE)

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A spider mite received from H. R. Yust, then Director of Plan Azuay Canar, occurring on *Camellia* in Ecuador, cannot be referred to a known species and appears to be undescribed.

Oligonychus yusti McGregor, new species

Female.—Tibia I with 7 tactile setae and one sensory seta; tarsus I with 4 tactile setae and one sensory seta proximad to the duplex setae. Tarsal claw I with five pairs of ventral spines these, shorter than the claw. Palp-tarsus about as long as thick. Peritreme consisting of a straightish, narrow tube, terminating in an oval chamber.

Male.—Aedeagus with shaft portion not noticeably narrowing caudad; the hook element is sharply deflexed, its beginning portion thick, then abruptly narrowed distally into a fingerlike noticeably truncated tip. The anterior outline of hook at right angles to the axis of shaft (not slanting anteriorad as in *O. coiti* (McG.)).

Type Material.—Yust No. 312.

Type Locality.—Cuenca, Ecuador, April 24, 1957, H. R. Yust.

Food Plant.—*Camellia*.

The present mite was submitted to E. W. Baker for an opinion as to its identity. In reply he stated that it seemed to be closely allied to *Oligonychus coiti* McG.

As a result of additional study, the writer detected the following outlined differences between the Ecuadorean mite and *O. coiti*, which would seem to be sufficient to separate these species:

Oligonychus coiti (McGregor). *Female*.—With 4 pairs of ventral spines on tarsal claw I; these spines are conspicuously longer than the claw. The palp-tarsus about twice as thick as long. *Male*.—The shaft portion of aedeagus with its greatest thickness fully half that of its length; the aedeagus begins bending abruptly ventrad shortly distad of the base of the shaft. The terminal, fingerlike portion of the aedeagus is bent very noticeably anteriorad.

Oligonychus yusti McGregor. *Female*.—With five pairs of ventral spines on tarsal claw I; these spines are shorter than the claw. The palp-tarsus is fully as long as thick. *Male*.—The shaft of aedeagus nearly 3 times as long as its greatest thickness, and it continues for most of its length in the same general axis as that of the inner lobe of the aedeagus. The terminal portion of the hook of the aedeagus (particularly its anterior margin) is not directed anteriorad.

O. yusti also resembles *O. platani* in some respects, but it differs in that the tarsal claw has 5 pairs of ventral spines (*platani* has 4 pairs), and these spines are shorter than the claw (they are longer in *platani*).

Oligonychus yusti, n. sp. Fig. 1, tarsus I of female (tenent hairs not shown); fig. 2, peritreme; fig. 3, tip of palpus of female; fig. 4, aedeagus; fig. 5, tibia I of female.

